There is no proposal to extend the term of the Commission beyond 31st October, 1993. An expenditure of Rs. 52,64,000 has been incurred on the Commission during the period 24 July, 1990 to 30 April, 1993

Arsenic Related Diseases in West Bengal

*240. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people in West Bengal are dying due to arsenic related diseases;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to send a Central Team to West Bengal to know the cause of the arsenic related diseases;

(c) whether Government also propose to seek the help of WHO for the patients off arsenic related diseases in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, what other remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) According to the State Government no deaths have taken place.

(b) The All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, Calcutta and the National Drinking Water Mission have already carried out indepth studies in the matter.

(c) Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi have reported that an expert from the World Health Organisation has also visited the affected areas.

(d) The National Drinking Water Mission have asked the State Government to arrange for alternative water supply to the affected villages and if, equired, prepare project for assistance from Govt. of India.

Setting up a Central Zoo Authority

1701. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central Zoo Authority was set up during 1992;

(b) if so, what are its objective; and

(c) to what extent those objectives have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The objectives of the Central Zoo Authority are as under:

1. to have a unifrom pattern of scientific zoo management in the country.

2. to specify the minimum standards for housing upkeep and veterinary care of the animals kept in a zoo.

3. to evaluate and assess the functioning of zoos with resect to the standards or norms prescribed.

4. to recognise or derecognise a zoo.

5. to identify endangered species of wild animals for purpose of captive breeding and assigning responsibility in this regard to a zoo;

6. To coordinate the acquisition; exchange and loaning of animals for breeding purpose.

7. to ensure maintenance of stud books of endangered species of wild animals bred in captivity.